

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, claiming nearly 3000 lives per year in the United States, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), the sudden and unexpected death of apparently healthy babies, is a leading cause of post neonatal death of infants up to one year of age; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that babies sleep on their backs to reduce the risk for SIDS; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding, providing a safe sleep environment, maternal smoking cessation, and avoiding an infant's exposure to second-hand smoke can also reduce the risk of SIDS; and

WHEREAS, it is urgent to reach the African American and Native American communities with SIDS risk reduction education, because the rate of infant death from SIDS among these populations is higher than in other groups; and

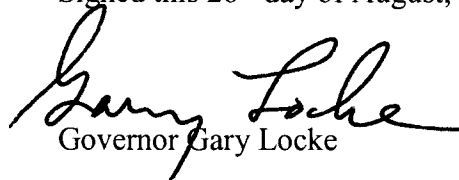
WHEREAS, risk reduction measures can save the lives of babies and spare many families tragedy, and as a result of public awareness of these methods, more Washington State infants live to celebrate their first birthdays;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 2004 as

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 26th day of August, 2004


Governor Gary Locke

